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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Original) A jet propelled watercraft comprising:
 - an engine having at least one throttle valve, the throttle valve being movable between an idle position and a fully open position;
 - a throttle operator remotely positioned relative to the engine and coupled to the throttle valve, the throttle operator being movable between first and second positions whereby the throttle operator causes the throttle valve to move between the idle and fully open positions, respectively; and
 - an engine control system comprising a first sensor configured to detect an operating state of the watercraft or the engine, a second sensor configured to detect a position of the throttle operator, a throttle valve control mechanism including an actuator cooperating with the throttle valve under at least one operating state of the watercraft or the engine, and a controller communicating with the first and second sensors and with the throttle valve control mechanism, the controller being configured to activate the throttle valve control mechanism once the operating state of the watercraft or engine is greater than a predetermined state and to leave active the throttle valve control mechanism at least when the throttle operator quickly moves to the first position so as to maintain the throttle valve between the idle and fully open positions.

2 - 31 (Canceled)